501.37519X00

N THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants:

Yoshito NEJIME et al.

Serial No.:

09/380,784

Filed:

September 9, 1999

For:

BROADCASTING METHOD AND BROADCAST SIGNAL

RECEIVING APPARATUS

RECEIVED

Group:

2611

JAN 0 2 2004

Examiner:

A. Koenig

Technology Center 2600

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR § 1.97 & 1.98

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 December 22, 2003

Sir:

7 1 3 4 7 1 5 6 1 1821 A

In the matter of the above-identified application, applicants are submitting herewith a copy of a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and copies of the documents listed in the attached form equivalent to Form PTO-1449 for the Examiner's consideration.

This information disclosure statement is being submitted before the mailing date of either a final action or a notice of allowance and is accompanied by the fee of \$180.00 set forth in 37 CFR §1.17(p).

Each of the documents listed on the attached form equivalent to Form PTO-1449 is in the English language.

To the extent the documents listed on the attached form equivalent to

Form PTO-1449 are not in the English language, the requirement of 37 CFR
§1.98(a)(3) for a concise explanation of the relevance is satisfied by an

1) English language version or translation of the foreign patent office report citing the documents and/or 2) an English language abstract attached to the reference.

It is respectfully requested that this information disclosure statement be considered by the Examiner.

Please charge any shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the deposit account of Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (referencing attorney docket no. 500.38711X00) please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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